

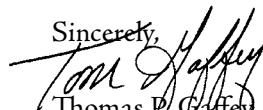
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www.senatedems.ct.gov/Gaffey.html

Dear Neighbors,

With new leadership in the General Assembly and in the Governor's office, the 2005 legislative session was filled with new opportunity. Crucial issues were debated with a fresh perspective and many positive accomplishments resulted.

In particular, we made important improvements in the state's commitment to help cities and towns meet the needs of residents. I have included in this report a chart that details the additional aid provided to Meriden.

I have also included a short summary of some additional issues that were addressed. Because of the space constraints in this report, I'd like to make sure that you know that additional and more detailed information is available on my website. If you have additional concerns or questions, you can call my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Gaffey
State Senator, 13th District



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S T A T E S E N A T O R

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Representing the 13th District:
Cheshire, Meriden, Middlefield, Rockfall & Middletown

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Senator Gaffey attends the ceremony for the signing of his school allergy bill by Governor Jodi Rell.

BUDGET: GOOD NEWS for MERIDEN

The General Assembly passed legislation that authorized much-needed support for projects across south central Connecticut. Included in this package were several projects important to the residents of Meriden. I will continue to work to ensure that these projects receive final approval by the State Bond Commission.

- \$2,000,000 for design and construction of the Meriden flood control project
- \$500,000 for improvements and maintenance to Hanover Pond
- \$250,000 for capital improvements to the Augustus Curtis Cultural Center
- \$250,000 for a streetscape project to enhance West Main St. from Cook Ave. to Chamberlain Highway
- \$150,000 for the Meriden Boys and Girls Club
- \$50,000 for improvements to Castle Craig Playhouse

STATE SENATOR **THOMAS P. GAFFEY**

2005 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Protecting Consumers

- Mandated that retailers provide warnings if limits on the number or the dollar amounts of merchandise are placed on returns. These return policies must be clearly posted in the store for consumers.
- Required retailers to notify a consumer, in writing, if the retailer intends to terminate that consumer's ability to return goods.
- Subjected stores to the possibility of penalties under the new law if stores fail to refund or give store credit to consumers who have met the posted return/refund policy.
- Enacted other consumer-friendly legislation: Gift cards will be exempt from the abandoned property statute and won't be turned over to the state if unused. Connecticut consumers can now rest assured that any gift card sold in the state truly does not have an expiration date.

Keeping Kids Healthy

- Required the Department of Education to develop guidelines for managing students with life-threatening food allergies and provides that every board of education implement policies based on those new guidelines.

Making Healthcare Accessible

- Introduced legislation to limit the co-payment, deductible or any other out-of-pocket expense an insurance company may charge for imaging, including MRI's and CAT scans. While this bill passed in the Senate, due to the final crunch of business, the House was unable to take it up. I intend to reintroduce this legislation next session and work hard to see that it becomes law.

Providing More Opportunity for Students

- Passed the largest expansion of the School Readiness program since its inception.
- Assisted our state colleges and universities with an additional \$52 million more than originally proposed.

Bringing a Child Probate Court to Meriden

- Supported legislation to bring one of six regional child probate courts to Meriden, fashioned after the successful New Haven Children's Probate Court pilot. The probate court will be staffed with professionals experienced in matters of child welfare and law. The court will provide on-site child support services to best ensure stable and healthy environments for our most distressed and vulnerable children.

State Aid for the Town of Meriden

Meriden will receive more state aid than last year to assist with school budgets, maintain roads and help pay for other general services.

	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	INCREASE FROM FY 04-05
Aid to Towns for Schools	\$46,543,566	\$48,585,932	\$2,042,366
Other Municipal Grants	\$3,745,635	\$3,881,065	\$135,430
Totals	\$50,289,201	\$52,466,997	\$2,177,796